

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EA-11 ISO-00 IO-14 CG-00 CIEP-03 CEA-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 FEA-02

DOT-00 JUSE-00 OMB-01 AEC-11 AGR-20 FMC-04 INT-08

DRC-01 AID-20 CEQ-02 COA-02 COME-00 EB-11 EPA-04

NSF-04 SCI-06 /244 W

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R 020852Z AUG 74

FM AMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3706

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS:PLOS JA

SUBJ: SOFTENING OF JAPANESE POSITION ON LOS

SUMMARY: GOJ IN PROCESS OF SOFTENING POSITION ON 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE AND STRAITS. FULL EXTENT OF ALTERATIONS UNCLEAR, AND WILL DEPEND ON DEVELOPMENTS IN CARACAS. END SUMMARY.

1. JAPANESE PRESS REPORTED THAT GOJ JULY 29 HAS REVERSED POSITION AND WILL APPROVE CONDITIONALLY CREATION OF 200-MILE EXCLUSIVE NATIONAL ECONOMIC ZONES AND SUPPORT FREE NAVIGATION OF STRAITS. DECISION REPORTEDLY TAKEN DURING INTERDEPARTMENTAL REVIEW HELD AFTER DEPUTY DELEGATION CHIEF SUGIHARA RETURNED FROM CARACAS FOR CONSULTATIONS LAST WEEK. CONCERN THAT ISOLATION ON 200-MILE ZONE ISSUE WOULD BAR JAPANESE FROM CONSULTATIONS TO SECURE FISHING

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RIGHTS WAS MAIN CATALYST FOR DECISION ON ZONE, ARTICLES

SAID.

2. QUERIED BY EMBOFF, LOS DIV CHIEF KUROKOCHI
LABELED REPORTS "DISTORTED" AND "PREMATURE". BOTH 200-
MILE ZONE AND STRAITS NAVIGATION WERE DELICATE QUESTIONS,
THE RESOLUTION OF WHICH WOULD DEPEND ON DEVELOPMENTS
AT CARACAS, SHE SAID.

3. WHEN ASKED ABOUT ARTICLES BY REGFISHATT, JFA MARINE
FISHERIES DIV COUNCILLOR YONEZAWA REVEALED THAT
INTERDEPARTMENTAL MEETING HAD IN FACT OCCURRED JULY 29,
AND THAT JFA HAD "WON SOME POINTS FROM FONOFF". SUBSEQUENT
JULY 31 ARTICLE IN FISHERIES ECONOMIC DAILY REPORTS
THAT BOTH YONEZAWA AND JFA MARINE FISHERIES DIVISION
DIRECTOR MATSUURA WILL BE LEAVING FOR CARACAS SOON TO
MAKE A THOROUGH STUDY OF THIS SITUATION AT THE LOS
CONFERENCE.

4. AS FAR AS STRAITS ISSUE CONCERNED, DEFATT LEARNED
FROM JDA SOURCES THAT PRESS REPORTS OF CHANGE IN JAPANESE

POSITION WERE "CORRECT". THOUGH JDA DISAGREED WITH CHANGE,
JDA DIRECTOR YAMANAKA IS "FLEXIBLE POLITICIAN" WHO UNDER-
STANDS NEED FOR CONSENSUS IN POLICY-MAKING PROCESS.

5. COMMENT: PUTTING THESE PIECES TOGETHER, WE SPECULATE THAT
AT JULY 29 MEETING, FONOFF PUT CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE
ON FISHERIES OFFICIALS TO SOFTEN POSITION ON 200-MILE
ZONE AND THAT JFA WON ONLY TEMPORARY STAY IN DECISION MAKING
PROCESS UNTIL ITS REPRESENTATIVES COULD GET FIRSTHAND
FEEL FOR JAPANESE POSITION IN CARACAS. DEFENSE AGENCY STANCE
MORE FLEXIBLE, APPARENTLY. WE BELIEVE THERE-
FORE THAT JAPANESE POSITION IN PROCESS OF SOFTENING,
THOUGH HOW LONG THIS WILL TAKE AND HOW FAR THEY WILL GO
ARE UNCLEAR. GOVERNMENT REACTIONS TO EMBASSY
QUERIES REFLECT BOTH FACT THAT FINAL DECISION NOT YET
MADE, AS WELL AS JAPANESE RELUCTANCE TO TIP IN ADVANCE
NEXT HAND THEY INTEND TO PLAY AT CARACAS. END COMMENT.
HODGSON

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